

**JOINT STAFF REPORT
Fall FACT SHEET No. 1
Columbia River Compact**

August 2, 2002

Purpose: To consider non-Indian commercial fishing options.
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SALMONID MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- A Management Agreement for upper Columbia River fall chinook, steelhead, and coho has been reached by all parties for fall fisheries occurring in 2002.
- The 2002 fall Management Agreement allocates the 31.29% URB impact rate 23.04% for treaty Indian fisheries and 8.25% non-Indian fisheries.
- Non-Indian fisheries occurring during August will be managed in accordance with the "2002 Non-Indian Columbia River Fall Chinook Allocation Agreement" completed through the North of Falcon negotiation process.

<i>Excerpts From the 2002 Non-Indian Columbia River Fall Chinook Allocation Agreement</i>
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| ✓ | URB fall chinook impacts in fisheries downstream of the Snake River are allocated pre-season at 4.36% to the sport fishery and 3.89% to the commercial fishery. The Columbia River Compact will use this URB impact allocation as guidance for making in-season management decisions concerning the Columbia River sport and commercial fisheries. Actual URB impacts in the fisheries may differ from pre-season estimates based on actual fishery catches, stock composition, and run-size updates. The <i>U. S. v. Oregon</i> TAC will update the URB run-size beginning in mid-September. |
| ✓ | <p>Expectations for the commercial fishery include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An early August salmon fishery up to four nights during the first week of August with potential for fishing during the early part of the second week of August in Zones 2 and 3 only. During the first week of August, the open area will include Zone 1 upstream to Longview Bridge and an 8-inch minimum mesh restriction. Projected catch is 16,800 salmon. Chinook/URB impacts not used in this fishery will transfer to August Zone 4-5 fishery.• Late August Zone 4-5 fishery during the last two week of August. Fishing is expected to occur 2-3 nights per each week with breaks in between fishing days. This fishery will not occur past August 29. Mesh size is 9inch minimum. Chinook/URB impacts not used in this fishery will transfer to September fisheries. Expected catch is 8,300 chinook plus any transfers from the early August commercial fishery.• No sturgeon retention will be allowed during August fisheries. Directed sturgeon fishing may occur during September and October to meet commercial allocation. |

- Based on pre-season run size forecasts and North of Falcon negotiations, the catch allocation for commercial fisheries occurring during early August is 16,800 chinook, including 2,700 URB's.

STOCK STATUS

- Fall chinook salmon returns are expected to be at very high levels in 2002.

<i>Summary of Columbia River Adult Chinook Salmon Returns in 2001 and Forecast for 2002</i>			
Species, stock	2001 Return	2002 Forecast	Comments
Fall chinook	548,800	659,800	Third largest since 1948
Upriver bright (URB)	232,600	273,800	Largest since 1988
Snake River wild (SRW)	NA	NA	
Mid-Columbia bright (MCB)	75,300	91,800	Largest since 1989
Bonneville upriver bright (BUB)	42,100	45,700	
Pool upriver bright (PUB)	33,200	46,100	
Lower river bright (LRB)	1,000	1,900	
Bonneville pool hatchery (BPH)	125,000	136,000	Largest since 1976
Lower river hatchery (LRH)	94,300	133,000	Largest since 1988
Lower river wild (LRW)	15,700	18,300	Largest since 1991
Select area bright (SAB)	4,900	5,000	Larger than recent 5-year average

STURGEON FISHERY MANAGEMENT

- Commercial fisheries during 2002 will be managed for a catch of 9,300 white sturgeon not to exceed 9,800 white sturgeon.
- Through July 25 white sturgeon catches have totaled 3,420 fish.
- Based on recent catch updates the commercial fishery will be managed for a catch of 5,900 white sturgeon, not exceed 6,400 white sturgeon, during the remainder of the year.
- The issue of sturgeon retention during fall fisheries was discussed with the commercial fishing industry during the North of Falcon negotiation process and concluded at a public meeting held in Clatskanie Oregon on April 29, 2002.
- Although consensus was not reached at this meeting it was generally agreed that sturgeon retention should be prohibited during all early fall mainstem fisheries (August) to ensure that adequate numbers of white sturgeon would be available to support sturgeon retention in salmon fisheries and target sturgeon fisheries during the late fall time frame.

FISHERY PROPOSALS

Mainstem Salmon Fishery

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation</i>		
Adopt the following salmon fishing periods for the mainstem Columbia River:		
Season:	7 PM Sunday August 4 to 7 PM Monday August 5	(12 hours)
	7 PM Tuesday August 6 to 7 PM Wednesday August 7	(12 hours)
	7 PM Thursday August 8 to 7 PM Friday August 9	(12 hours)
Area:	Mouth upstream to Longview Bridge (Zones 1-3).	
Sanctuaries:	Grays River and Elokomina-A.	
Gear:	8" minimum and 9¾" maximum mesh size restrictions.	
Allowable Sales:	Salmon only. No sturgeon sales allowed.	
Expected Catch:	Up to 16,700 chinook	

- ✓ Based on preseason modeling assumptions up to 2,700 URB fall chinook would be landed in the proposed fishery.

- ✓ The proposed fishery is consistent with fall Management Agreement and results of North of Falcon negotiation process.
- ✓ The proposed fishery allows additional opportunity to catch chinook with minimal URB impacts and no impacts on sturgeon allocation.
- ✓ The proposed fishery provides access to tule fall chinook in the lower river when in a more marketable condition.
- ✓ Preseason modeling and results of past fisheries during early August indicate that the majority of the catch will be tule fall chinook.
- ✓ The proposed fishery allows opportunity to gain information and collect data concerning salmon fisheries during the early August time frame.
- ✓ Chinook catch is expected to remain within the 16,700 chinook catch expectation for this fishery.
- ✓ Closed days between fishing periods allow for fishery checkpoints to update and modify ongoing fishery as needed.

Youngs Bay Select Area Fishery

- All waters in this fishing area are Oregon State waters and require Oregon State action.

<i>Staff Recommendation</i>	
Adopt the following fishing periods for the Youngs Bay Select Area:	
Season:	Noon Wednesday August 7 to 6 pm Thursday August 8 (30 hours) Noon Wednesday August 14 to 6 pm Thursday August 15 (30 hours) Noon Wednesday August 21 to 6 pm Thursday August 22 (30 hours) Noon Wednesday August 28 to 6 pm Thursday August 29 (30 hours)
Area:	Youngs Bay fishing area with upper boundary at Battle Creek Slough (see map).
Gear:	8-inch maximum mesh size restriction. Restrict net to maximum length of 250 fathoms and weight on leadline not to exceed two pounds in any one fathom
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and sturgeon.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Special permit would not be required to take fish outside the fishing area. Permanent transportation rules would be in effect.

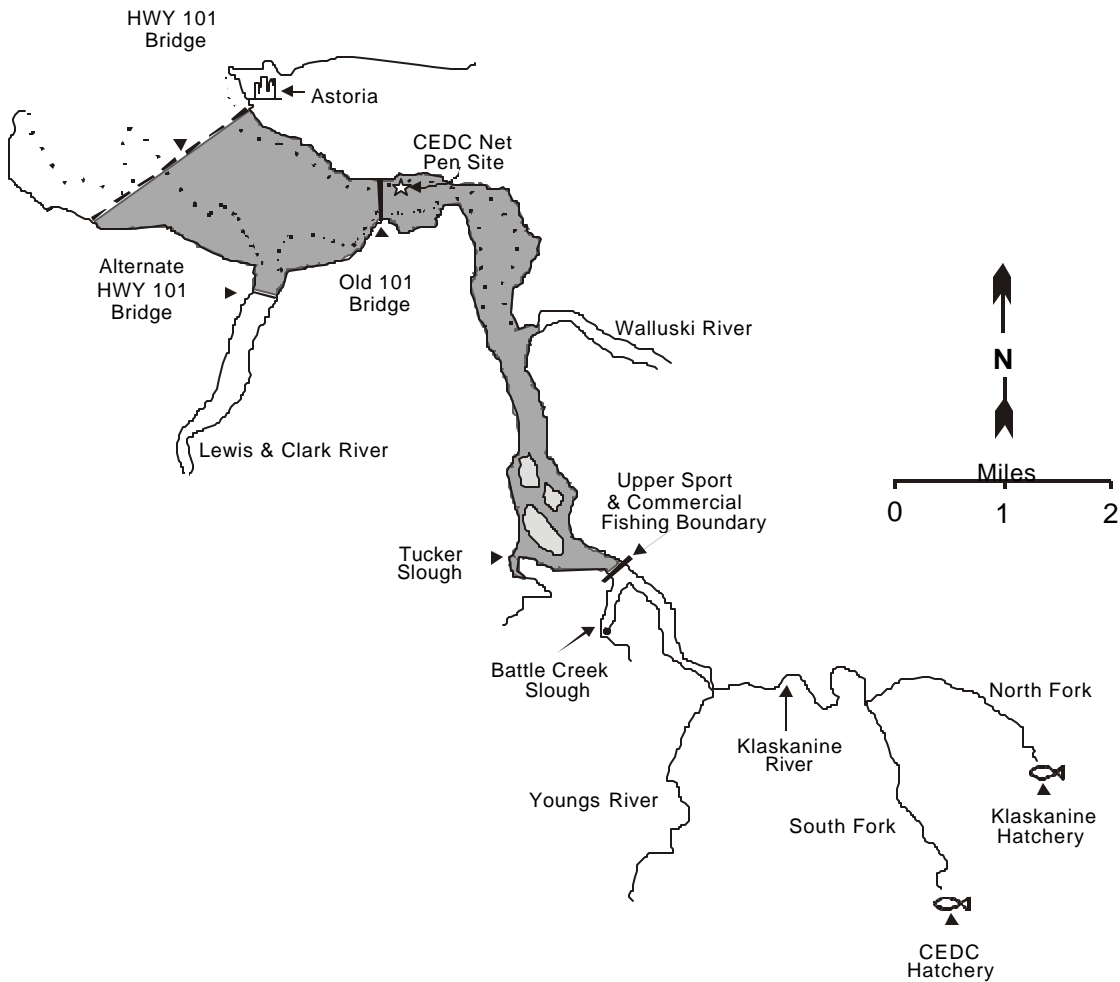
- ✓ The short 30-hour fishing periods in August allow for some harvest of net-pen produced SAB fall chinook while minimizing interception of non-local salmon and steelhead stocks plus SAB broodstock destined for Klaskanine Hatchery.
- ✓ Proposed fishery is consistent with past Youngs Bay August chinook salmon seasons.
- ✓ 8-inch maximum mesh size allows harvest of early returning SAB fall chinook and limits handle of white sturgeon.
- ✓ Upper fishing boundary is located at Battle Creek Slough to protect SAB fall chinook broodstock destined for Klaskanine Hatchery.

Future Compact Hearing

- The Joint Staff recommends that a Compact hearing be scheduled for 11 AM Friday August 9 at the Commission Room in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Headquarters office located at 2501 SW 1st Avenue, Portland, Oregon for the purposes of reviewing non-Indian commercial fishing seasons and considering non-Indian commercial fishing options.
- A Compact hearing is scheduled for 10 AM Thursday August 15, 2002 at the Commission Room in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Headquarters office located at 2501 SW 1st Avenue, Portland, Oregon for the purpose of reviewing salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon stock status and considering treaty Indian and non-Indian commercial fishing options, including Select Area fisheries.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
August 2, 2002

Youngs Bay



Commercial Fishing Areas

Youngs Bay fishing area includes those waters of Youngs Bay from the new Highway 101 Bridge upstream to either the upper boundary markers at the confluence of the Klaskanine and Youngs rivers or Battle Creek Slough; except for those waters which are closed southerly of the alternate Highway 101 Bridge (Lewis and Clark River). Upper fishing boundary varies between Battle Creek Slough and confluence of Youngs and Klaskanine rivers depending on adopted fishery. All waters are under State of Oregon jurisdiction.